

Appl. No. 10/799,898
Amendment dated September 15, 2006
Reply to Office Action mailed July 21, 2006

Amendments to the Specification:

At page 13, please replace the paragraph starting at line 7, which was previously amended in response to the previous Office Action, with the following amended paragraph:

Upon rotation, cog portions 12a of the primary case 2 and complementary ones of the sleeve 4, which move along channel 32 of the case, become overlapped, so that the primary case 2 and sleeve 4 are no longer separable by straight axial or telescope-like separation. In ordinary operation, these angularly overlapping cog portions 12a of the case 2 and corresponding cogs of the sleeve 4, overlapping by movement through channel ~~within a second cylindrical insertion portion~~ 32 during rotation, serve to prevent the separation of the case 2 and sleeve 4 upon dynamic activation in stage 2. As referred to above, however, in stage 2 dynamic operation, the cog portions 12a, and corresponding cogs of the sleeve 4, may be preferably configured to shear to reduce further the energy of the projectile. These cog portions 12a of the primary case 2 are shown angularly extending from one end of the longitudinal portions of the cogs 12 to overlap channels between complementary cogs of the sleeve 4 after the relative rotation of the case 2 and sleeve 4 following their initial axial coupling by relative axial or longitudinal movement. This in part permits the case 2 and sleeve 4 to remain coupled, absent the described shearing action, within the chamber upon firing and release of the bullet 6,8 down the barrel of the non-lethal firearm.

At page 14, please replace the paragraph starting at line 26, which was previously amended in response to the previous Office Action, with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 2b illustrates how, upon detonation of a cartridge that is within primer cavity 50, the case 2 thrusts rearward expanding the volume of the propellant gas within combined cavities 50 and the hollow interior of cylinder portion 28 of the case 2 and sleeve 4 reducing the energy conveyed to the

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projectile. The expansion of propellant gas is illustrated clearly showing that pressure builds up on the projectile through the firing hole 40. The projectile 6 releases down the barrel of a non-lethal firearm as a result. Figures 2c-2d respectively illustrate actual sizes of the cartridge in a view through an outer wall of the piston sleeve 4 in the static stage 1 position and in the dynamic stage 2 condition.